

# IREF (UK) News Letter – February 2016

## **India 2016 team reports**

A medical team from the UK has recently returned from India where they were present for IREF's annual Youth Conference. Here is some of their news, starting with two people for whom this was their first visit to India.



### **Lindsey Clark writes:**

January 2016 held a lot of firsts for me - my first passport; my first flight; my first time in India; and my first visit to IREF, Repalle.

As a member of Airdrie Baptist Church, IREF has been on my radar for around 12 years. My family have sponsored children and we've prayed for each medical team that has gone out over those years.

Each time I wished that I had some kind of medical training so that I could help out and be part of the team, but I had resigned myself to the fact that I never would. So, when I was approached for this year's trip I jumped at the chance! What a blessing to see the compound and meet the people we had been praying for.

Dee Rebba took us on a tour of the compound and to be honest, looking at the accommodation with western eyes, it seemed grim and I came away from the tour with a heavy heart. The smiling faces of these beautiful children and their easy-going, friendly manner seemed to be at odds with the dark, almost oppressive buildings they call home.



It wasn't until we heard some of their background stories and visited the surrounding villages, which the kids had come from, that the joy and peace of the lovely kids at IREF made sense.

These children are fed, watered, and clothed. They are given a roof over their heads and protection. They thrive on the company and support of hundreds of other children with similar stories to their own. Not only do they find love and strength in

this family of children, but they are introduced to a heavenly Father who loves them wholly and unconditionally. They are schooled and trained up, giving them the hope and potential to break the cycle of abject poverty when they reach adulthood themselves.

Dee and Emmanuel work tirelessly for these children and young people, and I was impressed on a daily basis by their energy, compassion, and vision. But I worry how much longer they can carry on at such a pace.

Please pray for (and provide) funding for the continuation of this amazing work.

Please pray for the future of IREF, that successors will be called and given wisdom, strength and a real heart for the work.

Please pray for the beautiful children that they might continue to know peace, protection, love, joy, health and strength, and will take that out into the world as they grow!

### **Nick Beacher writes:**

There is an overwhelming omnipotent and omnipresent beauty which exists within the heart and soul of IREF. Its fervent, eternal beat powers the flow of its message and love through all its veins and arteries, bringing life and love to all whom accept and metabolise the nutrients it offers! It re-oxygenates the hypoxic spiritual and bodily needs of the vital human and the communities in which we reside.



Asked to embark upon this journey with the team for the first time, I was struck by the absence of fear within me. Embraced within the vibrant and yet sensitive team I felt protected and swaddled by a greater power which foretold of the wonderful journey ahead.

Sensory stimulation with colour, smell, and the sound of song and music brought to life the culture and gave an insight into an Indian life. But there was no doubt, in this short journey, that IREF brought a lasting goodness to life.



I possess no life-saving skills as a dentist. Yet, sharing



in the team's equality as optician, nurses, assistants, and dentists all played their essential role, I so appreciated the value of such simple healthcare to all those we met. All that we gave was reciprocated on a logarithmic scale through the warming smiles and tender kindness together with the lessons in faith, for faith at IREF is stunningly bright. It is a guiding light which illuminates a path for hearts and presents a door to be opened for those who seek.

The work of IREF and all those who share in it is beyond the words I am able to share. What I can say is that IREF is alive and represents a heartbeat which emanates love and care, advice and support all through God.



It was a journey which left me humbled and inspired. The Rebba family past, present and future are guardians of the fire which grows to fill the atmosphere with the warmth of God's Word. It glows bright with the beaming smiles and souls of the children and young people held and supported in its arms. It sparkles with the knowledge, care and attitude of all its students, none more so than the wonderful nursing students.



None of the healthcare work we assisted in would have been possible without them. The care with which they approached each of their patients was remarkable and their dedication and drive to work and learn was most commendable.

If God is love then IREF is built upon the strongest foundation. A seed which has grown slowly but surely and now blossoms releasing its perfume for all to share. This most amazing garden is only

possible through the hard work of many and the guidance of God.



#### ***Stewart Shaw writes***

I thought the team worked very efficiently and smoothly with everyone fulfilling an important role. The clinics treated a lot of people, from children to college students and teachers. Once again the nursing students were vital in helping out in the clinics and translating for the clinicians. The optical department gave out 300 pairs of ready-readers and 130 prescription spectacles, having seen around 500 people.



The visit to Predalanka was very encouraging and worthwhile as a witness to the love of Jesus.

The youth conference seemed to go well and the 50 baptisms were evidence of changed lives. The pastors did a great job especially with Craig Darling missing out at the last minute (due to ill-health).

We hope to bring you some more reports in our next newsletter.

#### ***Points for Prayer*** Please pray for ...

- ***lasting fruit*** from the Youth Conference, and also from the annual Bible Conference and Gospel meetings held earlier this month;
- our next ***IREF(UK) Trustees meeting***, scheduled for March;
- ***Emmanuel and Dee Rebba and all the staff employed by IREF***: that they will be granted wisdom, spiritual and physical strength, and great integrity, as they lead God's work to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Once again, thank you for your generous and ongoing support for IREF which is much appreciated both here and in India!

***David Hunt*** [Chairman, IREF(UK)]